The terms of reference of the committee are:

- To provide technical support to State Governments in formulation of State Population Policies.
- To hold consultative workshops with the representatives of State Governments, experts and other civil society actors to assist formulating the State Population Policies.

(c) The objective of tne committee is to maintain uniformity in approach regarding the State Population Policies and the National Population Policy (NPP), 2000 which afrim the commitment of government towards voluntary and informed choice while availing of reproductive health care services and the continuation of target free approach in administering family planning services.

News-item, "Doctors stole my kidney, says BSF man"

1259. SHRIJIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Doctors stole my kidney says BSF man", which appeared in The Hindustan Times (Kolkata), dated the 15th June, 2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that such complaints off and on appear in media;

(c) whether Government have probed into the complaints; and

(d) if so, how many offenders have been punished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) to (d) Yes, Sir.

However, undersection 13(2) of the Transplantation of Human Organ Act, 1994, the State Governments are empowered to appoint by a notification one or more officers as Appropriate Authorities for the Purpose of the Act. Sale and purchase of human organs including kidney is banned under the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organ Act, 1994. The Act has provisions for punishing any one who commits such acts.